

Town of Amherst, MA



# Town Manager Report to the Town Council

September 14, 2020

# COVID-19

## COVID-19: Agenda

- **Status Report**
- Town Operations Update
- Recent Updates
- Outlook: Fall/Winter

# Status Report:

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Massachusetts **current as of 9/11/2020 at 7:25 a.m.**

- 122,202 Total Cases (1,194 in Hampshire County, 144 in Amherst)
- 9 current cases in Amherst
- 8,791 Deaths
- 2,905,353 tests to date by MA State Public Health, hospital, and commercial laboratories (includes repeat patients)

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-dashboard-september-11-2020/download>

# Public Health Indicators

## Amherst (September 9, 2020)

City/Town	Total Case Count	Case Count (Last 14 Days)	Average Daily Incidence Rate per 100,000 (Last 14 days) <sup>1</sup>	Relative Change in Case Counts <sup>2</sup>	Total Tests	Total Tests (Last 14 days)	Total Positive Tests (Last 14 days)	Percent Positivity (Last 14 days)	Change in Percent Positivity <sup>3</sup>
Abington	269	12	4.8	Lower	4912	657	15	2.28%	No Change
Acton	191	5	1.5	Lower	7358	1295	7	0.54%	Lower
Acushnet	109	<5	1.4	No Change	2564	363	2	0.55%	No Change
Adams	39	<5	1.7	Lower	1957	388	3	0.77%	Lower
Agawam	541	15	3.7	Lower	11230	1592	17	1.07%	Lower
Alford	<5	0	0	No Change	62	7	0	0%	No Change
Amesbury	199	<5	0.9	No Change	5104	753	2	0.27%	No Change
Amherst	144	19	3.4	Lower	34928	19699	24	0.12%	No Change
Andover	361	13	2.6	Higher	13020	2732	14	0.51%	No Change
Aquinnah	<5	0	0	No Change	160	13	0	0%	No Change
Arlington	348	15	2.3	Higher	15279	2843	17	0.60%	No Change
Ashburnham	38	<5	3.4	Higher	1945	332	4	1.20%	Higher
Ashby	18	0	0	Lower	751	116	1	0.86%	Lower
Ashfield	6	<5	8.3	Higher	416	100	2	2.00%	Higher
Ashland	288	17	6.2	Higher	6053	965	19	1.97%	Higher
Athol	83	<5	1.2	Higher	4107	571	5	0.88%	Higher
Attleboro	763	37	5.7	Higher	11994	1658	38	2.29%	Higher
Auburn	245	5	2.2	Lower	5412	890	5	0.56%	Lower



# Public Health Indicators

## Amherst (September 9, 2020)

**Amherst: GREEN**

Total Case Count: **144**

Two Week case Count: **19**

Average Daily Incidence Rate Per 100,000: **3.35**

Relative Change In Case Count: **Lower**

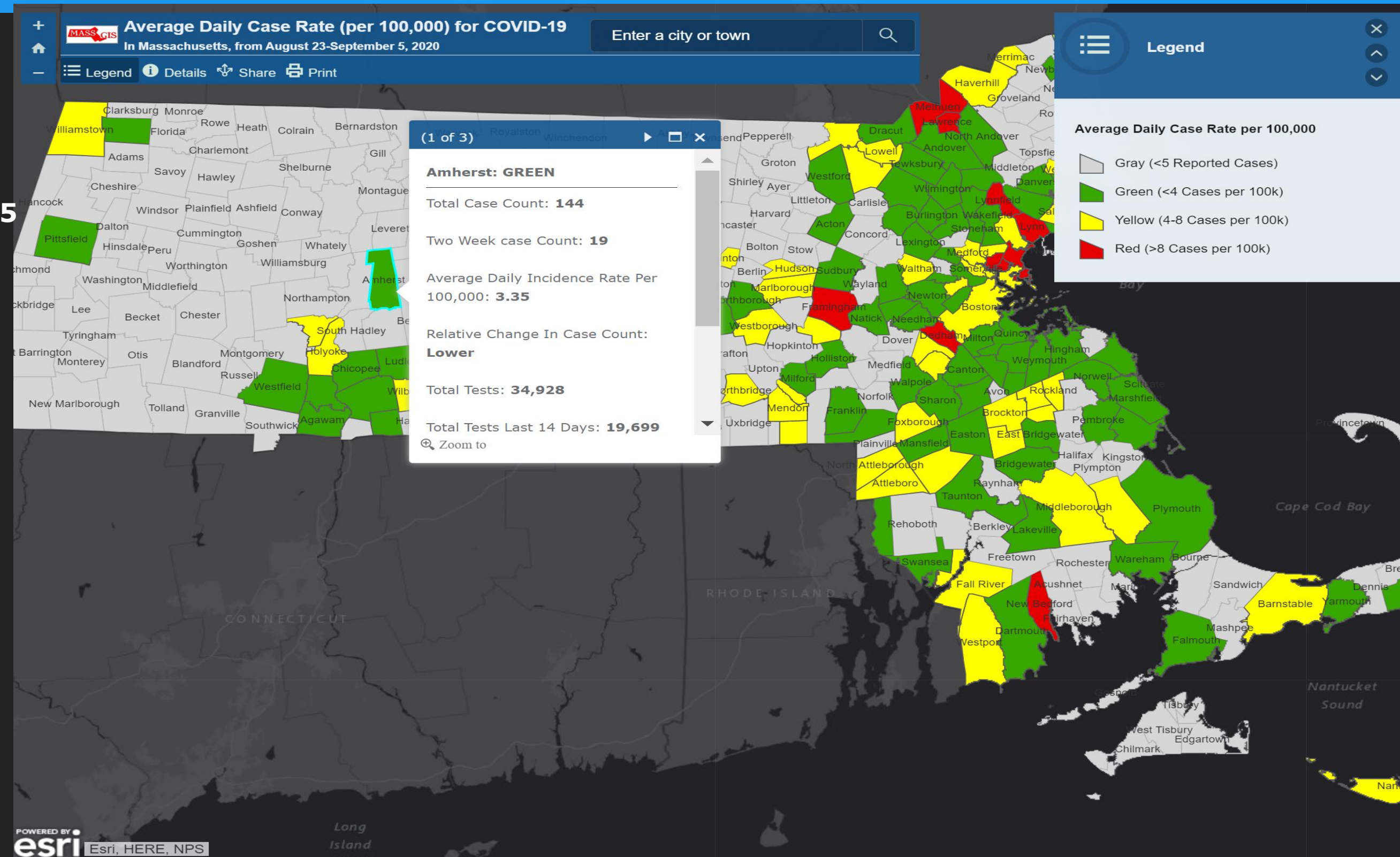
Total Tests: **34,928**

Total Tests Last 14 Days: **19,699**

Positive Tests Last 14 Days: **24**

Percent Positivity: **0.12%**

Change In Percent Positivity: **No Change**



# Status Report: Institutional Partners



- University of Massachusetts at Amherst:
  - <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/dashboard>
  - **As of September 12, 2020:**
    - Total tests completed – 33,100
    - Positive – 14 (cumulative)
- Amherst College:
  - <https://www.amherst.edu/news/covid-19/dashboard>
  - **As of September 11, 2020:**
    - Total tests completed – 15,704
    - Positive - 3
- Hampshire College:
  - <https://www.hampshire.edu/news/2020/08/21/covid-19-student-testing-program>
  - **As of September 10, 2020:**
    - Total tests completed – 1,439
    - Positive - 0

# Status Report: Institutional Partners – University of Massachusetts



## University of Massachusetts at Amherst:

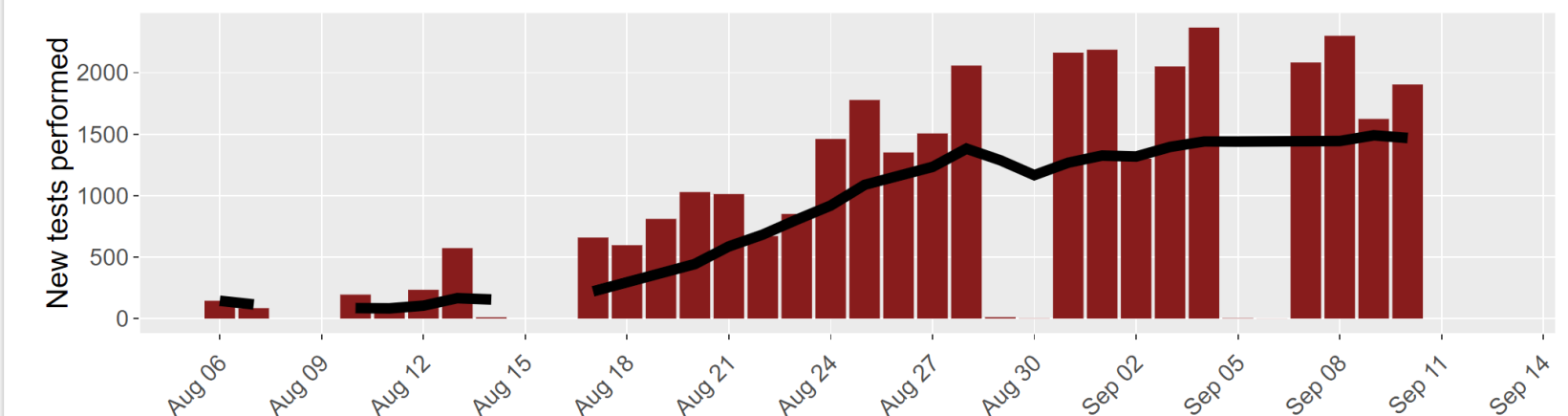
- Community Forum
  - Over 200 Zoom/Livestream participants
  - Schedule a second Forum in October
- Robust Testing Program Expanded
  - 33,100 tests
  - Fourth highest in the State (Boston, Worcester, Cambridge)
  - Over 10,000 unique individuals
  - Low positivity rate
  - Expanded to include off-campus students

Last Updated: Sep 12, 2020, 00:33 ET

The following dashboard provides information on COVID-19 testing conducted by UMass Amherst at the Amherst campus. The dashboard is intended to provide a snapshot of cases, positivity rates, and test turnaround times from both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. More information about COVID-19 testing at UMass Amherst can be found on the [COVID-19 Testing page](#). **Data are provided starting on August 6, 2020, which was the first date of asymptomatic testing.** The dashboard is updated daily.

Cumulative tests 33100	Cumulative positive cases 14	Cumulative positivity rate 0.04%
New positive cases 1	Weekly positivity rate 0.02%	

Daily Total Tests Performed



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# Continuity of Operations



Emergency Medical Services

Fire Services

Police Services

Dispatch



Water Treatment & Distribution

Wastewater Treatment &  
Collection

Transfer Station

Public Works and Roads



Finance – payroll, payables,  
purchasing, budget

**Health –  
Temporary Health  
Director**

Information Technology

Human Resources

❑ **Website:** [www.AmherstCovid19.org](http://www.AmherstCovid19.org)

❑ **Virtual Community Forum with UMass:**

- *Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.*
- *Schedule second Forum in October*

❑ **Live Call-in Events:**

- Open Q&A with Town Manager & Special Guest, hosted by Communications Manager

❑ **Outreach:**

- Mobile Food Market at Fort River School with Community Participation Officers
- Free masks and census information

❑ **Cuppa Joe with Paul:**

- Open Discussion with Town Manager Paul Bockelman. Topic: Ambassador program
- *Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.*



# Communications

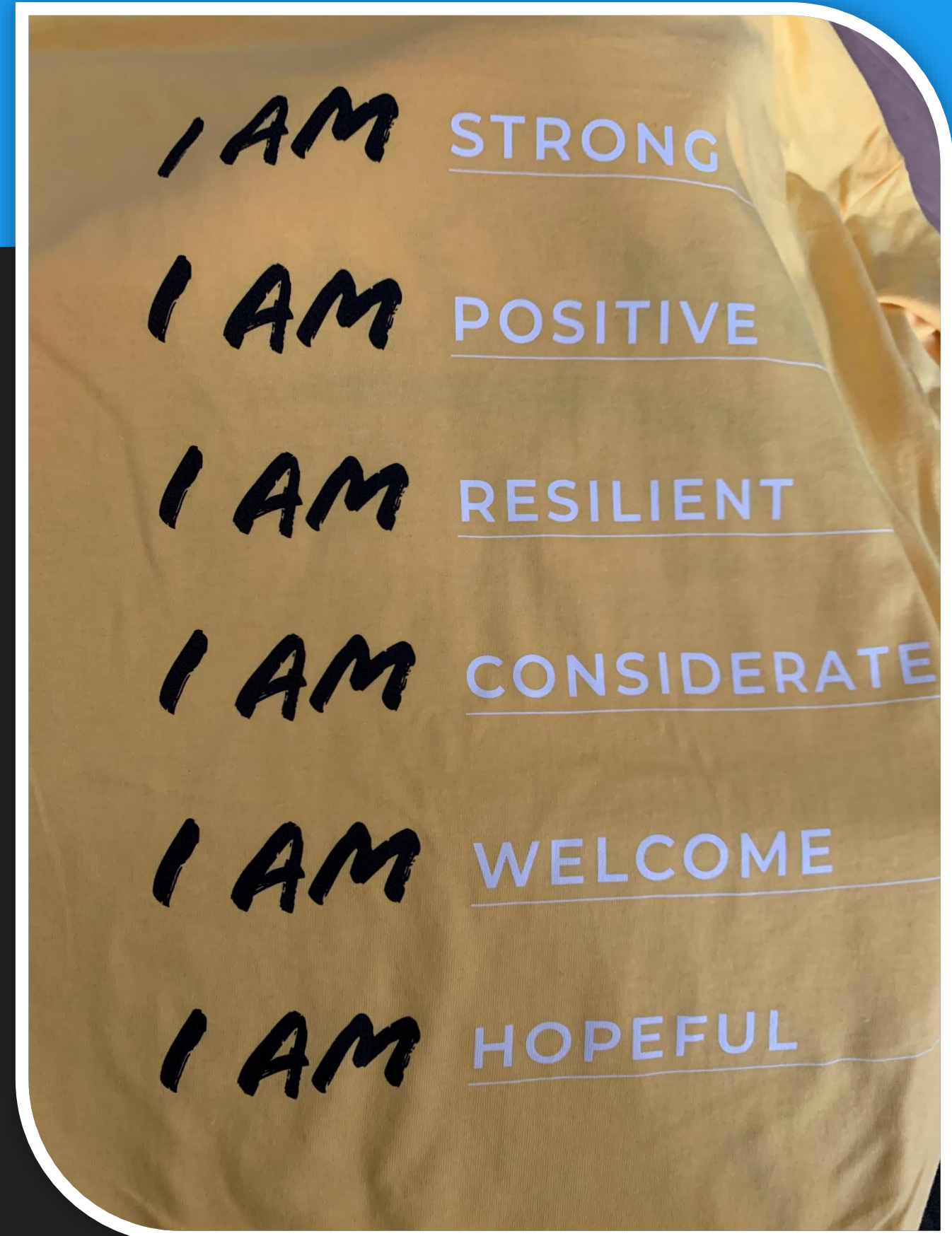
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# New Initiatives: Hot Line



- Call-in Number: 413-259-2425
- Email: [CovidConcerns@amherstma.gov](mailto:CovidConcerns@amherstma.gov)
- Monitored 7 days/week





# New Initiatives: Hot Line

- Started August 30<sup>th</sup>
- 95 calls/emails through September 10<sup>th</sup>
- All received a response; some are anonymous
- Those not answered by CPOs divided among:
  - Inspection Services
  - Health Department
  - Police/Ambassadors
- Areas of Comments/Questions:
  - Noise
  - Gatherings
  - Mask wearing
  - Testing






**WHO ARE THE  
AMHERST COVID  
AMBASSADORS?**

# New Initiatives: Ambassadors

## A TEAM!

We work together to help keep people in Amherst safe by educating people on COVID-19 safety procedures and state/town ordinances. We can also provide you with a mask if you forgot yours or it becomes damaged while you're out and about in town!

- 
- Work in Teams
  - Coordinate with UMass Efforts with Off-Campus Students
  - Lead with Education
  - Support from Town staff

# New Initiatives: Ambassadors

## HERE TO HELP!

The Amherst Covid Ambassadors are here to help everyone stay safe during the global pandemic. We can answer your questions, direct you to various resources, and provide you with a mask if you need one! We're the friendly faces in yellow shirts. Feel free to say hello when you see us around town!

Data through September 13<sup>th</sup>

- Total people hired: 6
- Total shifts: 2 shifts + 1 group orientation shift
- Total number of individuals interacted with: 154
- Total number of masks distributed: 10 (white town masks), 23 (black UMass masks [only given to UMass students])
- Community presence at Farmers Market

## COVID-19: Agenda

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# Outlook: Fall/Winter



## Staffing:

- Temporary Health Director
- Team approach:
  - Region
  - University
  - School Nurses
  - Town staff



## Planning for:

- Events:
  - Merry Maple
  - Winterfest
  - Halloween
  - Tree Sale on Kendrick Park
- Sheltering for the Unhoused
  - Day space
  - Overnight accommodations



## Public Health:

- Outreach to vulnerable populations
- Preparing for vaccine distribution



# Outlook: Fall/Winter



## Community:

- School Reopening Plans
- Fall Sports
- Social Services



## Business:

- Extend outdoor dining with heating, etc.
- Encourage safe indoor dining
- Support viable businesses



## Town Government:

- Expand Online Options
- Elections
- In-Person Meetings & Services at Town Hall
- Review Special Zoning

# Outlook: Fall/Winter



- Expect current situation to continue through the end of the calendar year



- Expect status to change as asymptomatic testing continues and/or expands



- Continue to manage, adjust, review, and implement